

been perpetually contested. But as long as the provisions of Melfi remained, such a step required the co-operation of his suzerain the Pope, and for his designs it seemed a piece of fortune that at this moment Honorius II. died (February, 1130), and a disputed election took place at Rome.

If one candidate for the Papal throne seemed more sure of success than another it was the Cardinal Peter di Leone, Cardinal-priest of St. Mary's in Trastevere, The Reforming party might claim him as one of themselves; his father Leo had been Gregory VII.'s right-hand man in Rome; he himself had studied in France and there attached himself to the Cluniaes; Pascal II. had made him a Cardinal; he had accompanied **Gc-**lasius to exile and returned with Calixtus, He was orthodox, versed in affairs of the world, and had been legate in France and Germany. The grand-son of a rich banker in Rome, master of a whole fortified quarter around the Church of St., Mark, his wealth and resources gave him a popularity among the poor, the middle classes, and the aristocracy of the city, which was little impaired by the circumstance that his grandparent had turned from the Jewish faith to one

more profitable.
able. Most of the nobles were for him,
but with
the important exceptions of the
powerful Frangi*
pani and Corsi. The fact gave the
Hildebrandt
party serious apprehensions; what if an
aristocratic
Papacy should arise dominated by
Roman families
such as was seen in the days of the
Crescent il?